

A Christmas Carol- Study Guide #1 ANSWERS:

Act 1, Scene 1:

1) What is the setting of the play?

- The play is set in various locations around the city of London. The entire play takes place on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the morning after Christmas in 1843.

2) Who is Jacob Marley?

- Scrooge's dead business partner and also, Scrooge's only friend.

3) According to Marley, what are some of Scrooge's flaws?

- Scrooge only values money and not family or kindness. Scrooge is mean and a very cheap person.

4) What relationship did Scrooge and Marley share when Marley was alive?

- They were each other's only friend and they were business partners.

Act 1, Scene 2:

1) What does the term Bah! Humbug! Mean?

- Nonsense

2) Why doesn't Scrooge start a larger fire in the office or, or repaint the sign outside of his business? What does this say about who he is?

- He wants to save money because he is a very cheap person. According to how he lives life, the value of a dollar is more important than any other value.

3) How are Scrooge and his nephew's views about Christmas different?

- **Scrooge**: Believes that Christmastime is a complete waste. He cannot understand if someone is poor, how they can be happy and enjoy it. Feels it is a time of paying bills with no money, becoming a year older but not an hour richer. Scrooge hates this holiday and all who love it.
- **Fred**: Believes that Christmastime is a good time. It is the only time that people can open their hearts and be kind to everyone around them. Even though he does not make money, he believes that Christmas makes him happy and does him good. He believes that Christmas is a time to spend time with your family and those you love.

4) What does Scrooge value most in life? What does Fred value most in life?

- Scrooge values money while Fred values family. They have completely opposite views of each other.

5) What establishments does Scrooge support? Why does he support them?

- The Treadmill and the Poor Law. Scrooge supports them because he cares more about money than mankind. He feels it is not his responsibility to take care of others.

6) How does Scrooge deal with the men that visit the office when they come to his office? What does this say about how he feels about the poor?

- Scrooge wants to be left alone. He doesn't even look at them and tells them that he is not giving them any money for the poor. He does not care about poor people and feels it is none of his business.

7) What does Cratchit put into the hands of these men? What makes his action ironic?

- Cratchit gave money to the men. It is ironic because he has hardly any money and is giving to the poor. However, Scrooge is rich and will not give any money to the poor.

8) What is Scrooge's reaction to snow?

- While everyone around him is happy and smiling at the snow falling down, he bats at the snowflakes with his walking stick and comments on how dark it is.

Act 1, Scene 3:

1) What items are being dragged from Marley's chains? What do they say about his character?

- Fastened cash boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, heavy purses fashioned of steel.
- These items show that Marley was greedy and only had a love of money.

2) Why does Scrooge think he might be imagining Marley?

- He doubts his senses. He thinks that his mind is playing tricks on him and just imagining Marley.

3) Why is Marley forced to wear those chains?

- He is bound by a chain that represents all the bad things that he did in his life- his obsession with money, his mistreatment of others and his lack of compassion.

4) Why does Marley visit Scrooge?

- To warn him to change his life.

5) What is Scrooge's only chance to escape the same fate as Marley?

- To be visited by the three ghosts/spirits.

6) When Marley disappears at the end of the scene, how does Scrooge react? How does this differ from how he normally acts?

- He is incredibly frightened.
- He usually does not show his weaknesses. Scrooge, usually wants to be by himself.

Act 1, Scene 4:

1) What does Marley inform the audience of?

- That Scrooge believes that it was all a dream and that he never saw Marley.

2) Describe the *Ghost of Christmas Past*-give physical and personality.

- Strange figure-looked like both a child & old man. White hair but unwrinkled skin, long & muscular arms but delicate legs & feet. Seems nice & gentle.

3) What ability does the spirit Past give to Scrooge?

- The ability to fly.

Act 1, Scene 5:

1) What memories of Scrooge's past make him weep?

- When he sees where he used to live when he was young-the bridge, the church and the river.

2) How does Scrooge's behavior change when he sees himself as a young boy?

- He becomes very upset-he becomes sad (bows his head), sorrowful (weeps), regretful (falls to the ground). He can't even look at himself as a young boy.

3) Why does his sister, Fan go to see Scrooge at boarding school? How does Scrooge feel about his sister?

- Fan has come to the boarding school to take Scrooge home.
- Scrooge absolutely loves his sister.

4) Who is Fezziwig? What lessons did he teach his apprentices?

- Scrooge's boss/employer.
- That a boss has the power to make the lives of his employees enjoyable.

5) Who are the man and woman in the scene? What does Scrooge wish would have happened?

- Man: an older Scrooge, Woman: One of Scrooge's love
- He wishes he wouldn't have lost her because of his love of money. Scrooge is angry with himself for the way he acted.

6) What effect has Scrooge's past experiences had on the person he has become?

- His past experiences have shaped and hardened him into the man he was today.
- They made him a miser.
- They made him unlucky in love.
- He did not spend time with his nephew.